

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

## Children's books and media: What's good? What's not?

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Christian and secular bookstores, along with church, school, and public libraries, offer children today an unprecedented variety of books, videos, and other media. Some are desirable, some aren't — and determining which is which takes more than just a glance at the cover.

Baptist librarians and educators emphasize the importance of evaluating each book on its individual merit rather than making blanket judgments based on genre (category), topic, author, publisher, or where the book is distributed.

Jacquelyn Anderson, media library director at First Church, Nashville, pointed out just because a book is sold in a Christian bookstore doesn't guarantee its quality or its suitability for a church or Christian home library.

Evaluation of children's literature — religious or secular — calls for paying attention to illustrations, as well as text.

Anderson, author of the forthcoming Baptist Sunday School Board Convention Press book *Selecting Media*, said one of the first illustrations she looks at in Bible story books is the baptism of Jesus — "to see whether John is doing it with a shell."

Barbara Freese, lead consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board's church media library program, added a word of caution about grotesque art. She explained that when children are exposed to bizarre art styles it tends to break down sensitivities and make satanic imagery seem "not so strange."

Books, videos, and other resources for children should use language and concepts that are appropriate to the child's developmental level, said Barbara Tucker,

minister of education at First Church, Greenwood, S.C.

"Children think very literally," she explained. To a young child, a phrase such as "I stand alone on the Word of God" — from the familiar song "The B-I-B-L-E" — could take on an entirely different meaning from what was intended.

Mixing realism with fantasy can be confusing to children, added Eve Keene, director of Greene County (Mo.) Association's church media organization. For that reason, she does not recommend materials like the children's video *The Super Book*, in which two children travel back into biblical times with a robot.

The appropriateness of fantasy and science fiction literature for children depends a lot on how it is handled, said elementary school librarian Karen Serby, a member of First Church, North Kansas City. "Some of the fantasy and science fiction is wonderful."

She said she reads C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to second graders each year "and they love it."

Well-written, realistic fiction can be a useful teaching tool as well as a source of entertainment, educators and librarians said. Anderson pointed out that a child who needs to know about an issue such as death, divorce, or a disability can identify with a child in a story who is dealing with that same issue more easily than he can relate to information given about the issue by an adult.

Ghost, horror, and monster stories are popular with kids, and some — particularly those involving dark witchcraft, satanic themes, and gruesome violence — are inappropriate, librarians and educators said. But opinions vary

on the degree to which reading in this genre should be discouraged.

Janet Hill, a member of Northgate Church, Kansas City, and former minister of education for First Church, Independence, Mo., said she does not see harm in allowing children to read something like the *Goosebumps* series by R.L. Stine, aimed at readers in about second or third through fifth grade.

Messages about family and sexuality also concern Christian parents, and portrayal of non-traditional families in children's literature is more common than it once was.

Anderson noted in the popular "Baby-Sitters Club" series by Ann M. Martin, aimed at girls about age 8-11, six of the eight girls who make up the club come from homes where there has been a divorce. The books never mention families going to church.

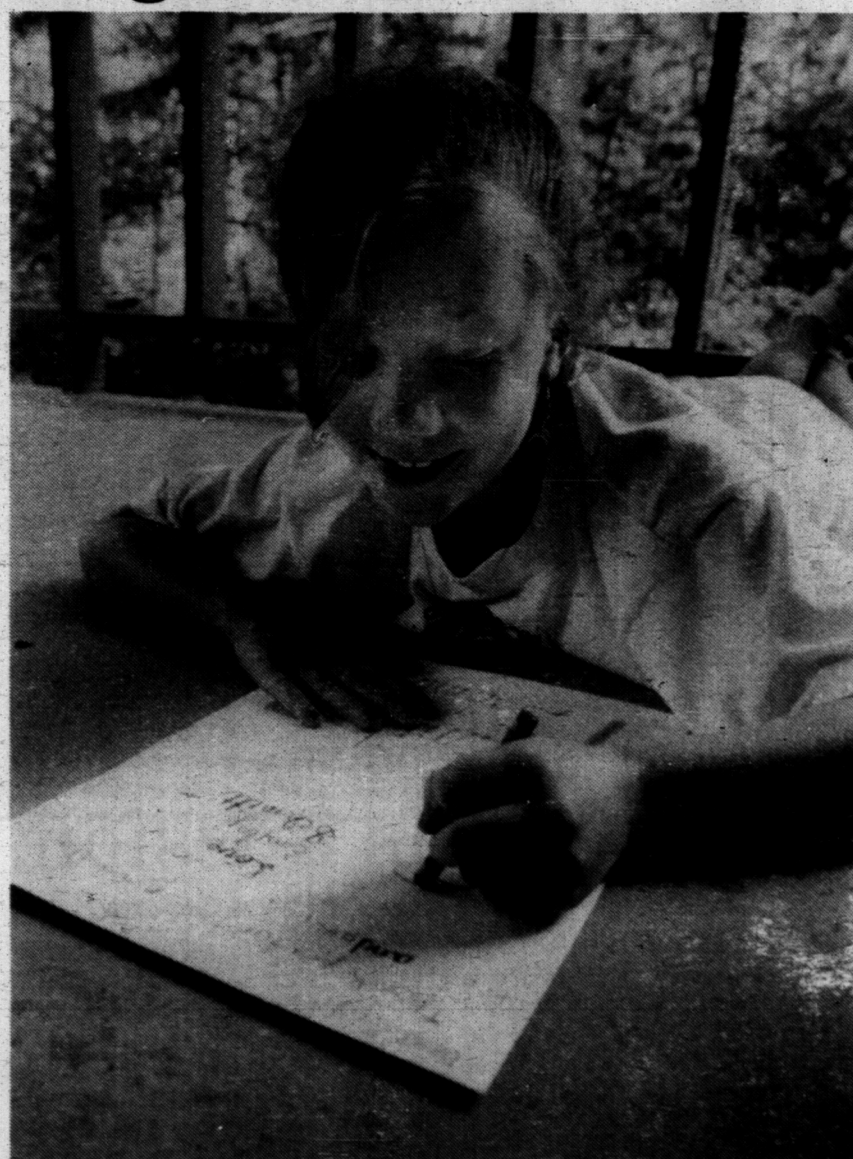
Some books that are popular with junior high girls deal with sex-related topics, Anderson cautioned.

Tony Cherry, pastor of First Church, Campbell, Mo., and a father of children in second and third grades, said he is concerned when a phrase like "Ms. So-and-so and her female friend" appears in a children's book and there is no mention of "Ms. So-and-so" having a husband.

Hill and Cherry voiced dissatisfaction with the way environmental issues are being handled in some books and periodicals.

Hill said the idea animals should have the same rights as humans conflicts with her understanding of what the Bible teaches — that animals were created for man's use and enjoyment.

Even though she has some concerns, Hill, who works as a PTA



RIDGECREST, N.C. — Emily Schmitt of Eastwood Church in Bowling Green, Ky., writes a letter of thanks to God as part of Adventure Week (1994) activities in the study area at Ridgecrest Conference Center's day camp. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

volunteer in the library at Briarcliff Elementary School in North Kansas City, offered a word of encouragement. The "solid, good books that we've been comfort-

able with" — such as Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, Dr. Seuss books, and the *Berenstain Bears* — are still popular with kids, she affirmed.

### Interfaith work encouraged

Many Southern Baptists fail to understand that late-20th century America is a melting pot of religions as well as nationalities, according to Bill Gordon, regional director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department. "There are literally more false religions and cult groups out there than any one department can keep track of, much less communicate to Southern Baptists," he pointed out. George Braswell, professor of missions and world religions at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., agreed. "Christians need to be aware of this growing religious pluralism and be equipped to give their witness," Braswell said. Gordon explained that many Christians are hesitant to meet face-to-face with members of other religions, which is crucial to understanding those religions and building an effective interfaith witness. "Can you imagine the loss of credibility if you had to admit to a class you were teaching on the beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that you had never really met a member of that faith?"

### Long time coming

Baptists in Lodz, Poland, have seen a half-century of prayers answered with the return of their church property in the center of the city. First Baptist Church of Lodz was confiscated by the communist government at the end of World War II and used through the years as a military headquarters and police station. The historic buildings, dedicated in 1882, include a 1,600-seat sanctuary, but government officials altered the buildings so that the site no longer appeared to be a church. Konstanty Wiasowski, president of the Baptist Union of Poland, said the return of the property was made possible by working with local authorities operating under new laws passed since the fall of communism, even though the long-time occupants of the building — the Lodz police department — strongly opposed the move to return the property. The Baptist Union of Poland is also waiting for a negotiated agreement, which will facilitate the return of other church properties across the country, to be ratified by the national government.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission warns that Mississippi is being cited by several prominent gambling industry publications as a prime target for legalized gambling legislation in the coming year.

#### 20 years ago

Royal Ambassador boys in Mississippi are being recruited to participate in the Torch Run relay from Memphis to Miami Beach in honor of the 50th anniversary of Southern Baptists' unified Cooperative Program.

#### 50 years ago

The trustees of Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson vote to name the new freshman nurses' dormitory for Margaret McRae Lackey, longtime Woman's Missionary Union state secretary and avid supporter of the hospital.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The media are alive and...!

Have the gatekeepers of the media ceased to guard the premises? Have they thrown in the towel? Many people are turning to alternative news sources — bouncing off satellites, introducing hundreds of channels, adding to the information superhighway, plus continuing to read the newspapers.

It has been observed by John Fund in *Imprimis*, newsletter of Hillsdale (Mich.) College, that "while they favor and agitate for regulation of every other industry, journalists insist that there is no such thing as 'reasonable regulation' of the media."

New information technology is revolutionizing our society by changing the platform and the way issues are debated. Five-million satellite dishes ravage our landscape. There are now 200 radio talk shows. As many as 20 million people listen in weekly to Rush Limbaugh. The "quiet as a mouse" type can now call in and be loudly heard. Sometimes these outlets are nothing more than a pooling of ignorance; then at times vital issues and information influence their listeners.

An estimated one-third of Americans have personal computers and, with a telephone modem, can subscribe for as little as \$10 per month and merge into the information superhighway.

Suddenly the media take on a new look, encompass far more territory, and the persuasive arm of civilization grows stronger. An old Near East proverb declares, "The ink of the scholar is more holy than the blood of the martyrs." Whether we accept this or not, we do accept the fact that the responsibility of the media is greater than ever. It is the mind-bending force of our society.

Kyle Haselden, in his book *Morality and the Mass Media*, asks the question, "Have the media of universal and instantaneous communication helped produce for man a setting that out-modes old codes of personal righteousness, not only demolishing our inherited ethical system, but also radically transforming man's character?"

No less a theologian than Phil Donahue reportedly said, "Celebrities have become the chief agents of moral change in Ameri-

ca." If a new man and a new code of personal ethics have been spawned from this shift, is he better off or worse?

Indeed Jesus put the spotlight on loving God and "thy neighbor." This mandate is more important than all "burnt offerings" or any other thing you do in your religion.

Haselden observes correctly when he states that without authentic morality, genuine worship diminishes. Where private devotion and worship diminish there is no authentic morality.

Have the media raised the white flag of surrender? Is the electronic kingdom to the point where it would rather run a suggestive series which is losing money than to have an uplifting series that would possibly show a profit?

Whatever the preference, little help can be expected from the mass media for Christian values. The church will fight back but the church is influencing fewer families in the field of morality. The only gatekeepers left are Mom and Dad... and "if the gold rust, what will the iron do?"

"YOU WOULD HAVE FELT AT HOME IN MY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TODAY, POP! WE SAT AROUND THE WHOLE HOUR, CRITICIZING THE PASTOR!"



## Testimony of a layman...

## What is mission work?

By Todd Cospelich

(The following is a message given last summer by Cospelich at a Baptist Men cookout. Cospelich is a pharmacist and member of First Church, Calhoun City, where he teaches a mission Sunday School, Southside Sunday School. The church has also begun a similar work, Northside Sunday School.)

The Baptist Men organization of First Church, Calhoun City, is trying to build its membership by getting younger members of the church involved. At [last summer's] meeting of Baptist Men, President Carter Dobbs circulated a list of names of men in our church who should be active in the group.

Another list of names, primarily widows in the community, was also circulated. Dobbs proposed an adopt-a-neighbor plan by which the members of Baptist Men could visit and assist these women.

What is mission work? Providing medical care, dental care, food, clothing, shelter, building churches, and spreading God's Word are some examples. But we all know these. I came up with a

general definition of what mission work is to me — spreading God's Word and doing his work. Then I asked myself, "Where is mission work?" We know it is in Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Africa, Alaska, and Asia. What about right here in Calhoun City? What about visiting an elderly neighbor, picking up a fallen limb from an overnight storm, changing a light bulb, running an errand, or getting a loaf of bread? That is mission work, too.

The fastest growing segment of the population in Calhoun City from 1980-90 was the over-65 age group. This gives us a lot of opportunities to do God's work right here at home.

On the other end of the age scale are the children, and that brings me to our mission Sunday Schools. This is an area of equal importance, but one where we can perhaps have a greater impact than assisting the elderly.

Almost all young people want to be like their parents, both boys and girls. This holds true even if their fathers are in prison or if their mothers are teenagers. The children perceive this as normal.

By giving these kids a positive role model, by challenging them, giving them new goals to strive for, helping them achieve those goals, and celebrating with them when they do, we can alter their perception of normal.

Some of you have coached ball teams. You may have had a child on a team, or maybe you were on a team when you were younger. So, we have all experienced the excitement, the overwhelming thrill of winning a close game, or pride at the end of a winning season. We have seen children grow and improve their skills during the year on the team. But they didn't do it on their own — they were led, taught, guided, and coached. Because of this we saw a positive end result.

It took time. It was worth it. It made a difference.

Imagine a basketball coach going to the kid on the free-throw line and saying: "Arch the ball more, aim higher. Bend your knees. Concentrate on the goal, and visualize the shot going in the goal." Those little changes make all the difference.

Who do we turn to when we

## THE FRAGMENTS

## Reaching our goals

Men like to carry pocket knives. I suppose I've carried one since I was 10 or 12 years old. It's no threat to man or beast, but it brings a degree of security to the owner. It can become a can opener, a bread slicer, or a spoon for potted meat. You can cut strings, chop bait, trim your nails, or use it in lieu of a screwdriver.

Once in the Philippines, the knife helped me see the value of giving up things in order to achieve a personal goal. My goal was to get on an airplane and go

home. A soldier was there and his goal was to search everyone first. Ah... he found the awesome weapon — a pen knife with a two and one-half inch blade. He sucked air, shook his head, and confiscated my knife. Mind you, this is in a country where half the men wear an 18-inch bolo.

After a bit of discussion I realized he had to reach his goal before I could reach mine. There are times in our pilgrimage where Christ has to reach his goal before we can reach our goal. — GH

need advice or have problems? Who is our leader, our coach? God is. What would he say if we asked him, "What can I do to increase my effectiveness?"

He might say: "Keep your eyes open to those around you. Keep a tighter grip on my Word. Extend your arms more to those who need your help."

Or maybe, like the coach on the free-throw line, God comes to us and says:

"Aim higher. Set higher goals for yourself. If your goal is to make it to church and Sunday School on Sunday morning, maybe it needs to be to attend Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night.

"Maybe it needs to be singing in a choir, helping with mission Sunday Schools, or starting a class for single parents. Maybe it

should be to start a program on Tuesday nights to visit and witness, spreading my Word and doing my work.

"Bend your knees more. Spend more time in earnest prayer seeking my will in your life and in your church.

"Concentrate on the goal — spread my Word and do my work!"

What is mission work? In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "... You are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Where is mission work? Right here in Calhoun City.

Can we make a difference? I know we can. I've seen it.

Will it take some of our time? Sure, it will.

Will it be worth it? I think so. Do you?

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# Boatner keeps son's memory alive through scholarship fund

By Cathy Hayden

BRANDON — A year after her son's death, Paula Boatner is convinced he's high-fiving it in heaven every time she teaches a step aerobics class at Park Place Church in Brandon.

In her mind's eye, she sees Bradley Boatner slapping hands with the angels because his mother is involved with the church he so loved.

That was important to the young man who had just committed himself to missionary work the night before he was killed on Jan. 18, 1994, she said. "He truly walked the walk and talked the talk. He was a witness," Boatner said.

Brad Boatner was a 17-year-old senior at Brandon High School when he joined a group of 37 medical missionaries on a trip to Honduras. He died when the flatbed truck he was riding in overturned on a collapsed road between Tela and La Ceiba on Honduras' north coast. Boatner was on his second medical mission to Honduras sponsored by the Pearl River Association Brotherhood every January.

This year, "Bradley Boatner Memorial Mission Trip" is part of the mission's name, said Sheri Albert, whose husband Mike is its medical leader. Mike Albert left Jan. 21 for Honduras for his ninth

medical mission from New Orleans, said his wife.

On Jan. 21, the anniversary of his burial, Boatner was remembered not with tears, but peals of laughter as family and friends recalled his huge plans and his quirky sense of humor.

His bedroom in his parents' Brandon home is almost just as he left it, with his computer still set up — his computer password was "Jesus." His Spanish language dictionary is on a bookshelf and baseball mementos on the desk.

Since his death, the story of his friendly Christian faith and his two trips to Honduras have

inspired memorials and testimonials including:

- A Bradley Boatner Ministerial Scholarship Fund tops \$12,000, said Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon. (For information on the fund, write the church at P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39042.)

- An antique bell sits outside Brandon High School in his honor. A plaque is inscribed with the words "Let us go unto perfection," from Hebrews 6:11. Those were the words on Boatner's flip-page calendar the day he left for Honduras.

"There is just no limit to what

God is going to do with this," Albert said.

Paula Boatner said that for no particular reason, she did not want her son to make the mission trip in 1994. That didn't faze him. He started his own fund-raising campaign and got the \$575 it took to travel to Honduras.

Later this year, Paula Boatner plans to visit the spot where he died. "I want to go and see what it was that drew him," she said.

Hayden is education writer for the (Jackson) CLARION-LEDGER. Reprinted with permission from the CLARION-LEDGER'S Jan. 22, 1995, issue.

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## The Baptist Record

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### Nobles hospitalized in California following arrest by FBI agents

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles is in a San Francisco hospital recovering from emergency ulcer surgery performed Jan. 30.

He collapsed Jan. 26 while being arrested by federal law enforcement agents acting on a fugitive warrant issued after he failed to appear earlier that day at a pretrial court hearing in Jackson.

David W. Johnson, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Mississippi, said Nobles, 69, was located around midnight Jan. 26 at a San Francisco hotel where he had registered under an alias.

"A significant amount of cash

was seized from Nobles at the time of arrest. Shortly after Nobles' arrest, it became apparent that he was experiencing medical problems, and he was immediately attended to by paramedics and taken to a hospital," Johnson said.

Nobles is diabetic and has a blood pressure condition, but it was not known whether he took his medication with him when he fled his Clinton home.

Nobles remains in the intensive care unit of St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco. At press time, his attorneys reported he was doing well. He will not appear before a federal magistrate in California until his doc-

tors approve.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge

William

Barbour

of Jack-

son has

ordered

that a

psychi-

atric eval-

uation of

Nobles be

per-

formed at

a federal

facility after he is

released from the hospital.

Nobles is scheduled for trial

Feb. 7 on a 20-count federal

indictment charging him with

diverting at least \$1.7 million in

contributions intended for the

Baptist-affiliated college in Clin-

ton.

Nobles' medical emergency

and the psychiatric evaluation

have put the Feb. 7 trial date in

jeopardy, but no decision has yet

been made to postpone the trial.

The indictment against Nobles

includes allegations of fraud,

money laundering, income tax

evasion, and illegally enticing

women to cross state lines for

immoral purposes.

Barbour issued the arrest war-

rant in Jackson after Nobles did

not show up for a Jan. 26 pretrial

hearing involving routine motions

to suppress evidence prosecutors

intended to use at his trial.

Nobles had last been seen by a

family member on the evening of

Jan. 24. His 1992 Oldsmobile

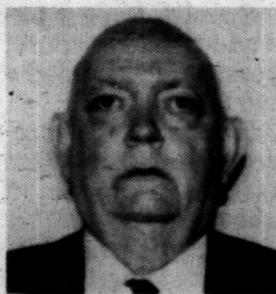
was discovered on the afternoon

of Jan. 26 at Memphis Interna-

tional Airport.

The FBI did not release further

details of Nobles' apprehension.



Nobles



David W. Johnson (right), special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Mississippi, announced Jan. 26 that a nationwide search was underway for Lewis Nobles, former Mississippi College president, after he disappeared prior to a federal court appearance scheduled earlier in the day. Nobles was captured by FBI agents several hours later in a San Francisco hotel with a "substantial amount of cash," Johnson said. Nobles, who suffered an apparent seizure during his arrest, is currently recovering from emergency surgery in the intensive care unit of a San Francisco hospital. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

### Evangelism Conference publishes list of state's top churches in baptisms

The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, held Jan. 30-31 at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, in its program published the top 10 Mississippi churches in baptisms for 1994. They are:

Church	Pastor	Number/Ratio
<b>Total baptisms</b>		
First, Jackson	Frank Pollard	167
Park Place, Brandon	Bobby Williamson	163
Northcrest, Meridian	Malcolm Lewis	132
Barton First, Byhalia	John McMullen	120
Colonial Hills, Southaven	Steve Bennett	117
Trinity, Southaven	Jim Butler	108
Harmony, Crystal Springs	Clark Stewart	106
Temple, Hattiesburg	Dean Register	93
Sharon, Long Beach	Lynn Chapuis	85
Morrison Heights, Clinton	Stan Fornea	80

#### Ratio, resident members to baptisms

Bluff Springs, Eupora	Courtney Griffin	1.00
Riverside, Monticello	Fred Morris	2.29
First, Gattman	Jeff Bowen	2.71
New Hope, Pontotoc	Jimmy Grubbs	2.98
Pineview Mission, Houston	Al Gaspard	3.29
Larue, Ocean Springs	Burnice Havard	3.35
Faith, West Point	Gary Jackson	3.57
Savoy, Enterprise	Charlie C. Arnold	3.67
Pleasant Ridge, Sallis	Freddie Tanksley	3.75
Grace Memorial, Tupelo	Joe Holcomb	3.81

### Nobles Chronology

**Aug. 3, 1993** — Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles resigns under pressure from the school's trustees over his handling of large donations intended for the school.

**Aug. 7, 1993** — Mississippi College files suit against Nobles to recover at least \$3,000,000 in donations alleged to be missing.

**Aug. 12, 1993** — Federal and state authorities begin a criminal investigation of Nobles.

**June 22, 1994** — A federal grand jury examines evidence gathered against Nobles.

**Aug. 17, 1994** — U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour Jr. freezes all of Nobles' known assets.

**Sept. 21, 1994** — Federal grand jury returns 20-count indictment against Nobles.

**Jan. 26, 1995** — Nobles is declared a federal fugitive when he fails to appear at a 9 a.m. pretrial hearing in Jackson.

Nobles' car is located in the early afternoon at Memphis International Airport.

Nobles is arrested about midnight in a room at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco.

Nobles suffers an apparent seizure and is rushed to nearby St. Francis Hospital.

**Jan. 27, 1995** — Barbour orders psychiatric examination of Nobles, who remains in the hospital's intensive care unit.

**Jan. 30, 1995** — Nobles undergoes emergency ulcer surgery in San Francisco.





**Bill Sellers**, Annuity Board representative for Mississippi, retired Jan. 31 after 26 years of service to Mississippi Baptists. (See related story below.) The member of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen choir served as business manager for *The Baptist Record* for nine years before becoming Annuity Board representative in the Church-Minister Relations/Annuity Department at the Baptist Building. (Photo by Guy Henderson)

## Repeat performance of "Not Another Banquet" doesn't draw a crowd

By Tim Nicholas

The second annual banquet to raise summer ministry funds for Gulf Coast Community College was scheduled for Jan. 14. This year's event was titled "Another, Not Another Banquet."

And, as last year, this year no one came.

The event, designed by Baptist Student Union (BSU) director Tim Thomas, had to be moved to January because of scheduling conflicts during the Christmas season.

"There was simply too much going on during the Christmas season to guarantee a big response of non-attenders," Thomas said.

Among the guests — all of whom paid not to attend — were Mississippi author John Grisham, concert pianist Phillip Fortenberry, and author/motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Ziglar was motivated to pay not to attend.

Robin Roberts, sports anchor for ESPN cable network, paid not to be master of ceremonies

for the evening.

This year's banquet was slated to take place at Vrazel's, a Gulfport restaurant where chandeliers twinkled through lightly smoked windows onto place settings for more than 100 guests who failed to attend the banquet.

But that doesn't mean they don't care. Students have collected nearly \$8,000 so far that will go to local and world hunger relief projects.

The event began this year when 17 BSU students studied hunger needs and completed a 30-hour fast to raise more than \$1,200. At a noon luncheon, they presented their first check for \$1,000 to East Howard Mission Center in Biloxi.

Last year's non-event gained recognition in newspapers and TV stations across the country, including coverage by Peter Jennings on ABC news radio; Paul Harvey; and CNN world news.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

## Alaska partnership ...

# Mississippi Baptists challenged to respond to list of posted needs

The following requests have come from the Tanana Valley Baptist Association in Alaska, under the Mississippi/Alaska Partnership Project. Please check to determine if there is a project to which you or your group can respond:

**Chinese fellowship:** Retired missionary or pastor who speaks Chinese needed from May-October 1995. Mississippi churches can help with approximately \$3,000 in expenses that must be underwritten for this project.

Financial assistance is also needed to send a lay leader and his wife to Glorieta Assembly for training.

**Goldstream Valley Church:** Construction help and financial assistance of about \$40,000 needed to build parsonage for future pastor. Housing is expensive in this area, which has good growth potential.

The church building needs leveling on its pilings (job will take about two days).

**Korean Baptist Mission:** Facility no longer large enough for the congregation. Mission is raising money for new facility and needs financial assistance.

**Spanish Baptist Mission:** Van needed to transport Spanish-speaking adults, youths, and children to services.

Financial assistance needed to send pastor and wife to Glorieta Assembly for Small Sunday School Week.

**St. John Baptist Church:** Exterior siding installation assistance needed — this request is being made for the second year.

General painting and cleaning help also needed.

**Baptist Campus Ministry:** Financial assistant is needed for Mississippian Tim Thomas, who is directing this ministry at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

He is serving through the Christian Service Corporation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which means he must raise his own support.

**North Star Baptist Church:** Assistance requested to start Bible study in remote location.

Help needed for general building repairs and remodeling projects.

**Literacy projects:** Scholarships needed to train two teachers in Oklahoma during summer 1995.

Financial assistance needed to purchase language Bibles and Bible-based materials for students. Also, help is needed to purchase

been flagged as a major need that must be addressed by early June, if possible.

Mission also needs Sunday School and ministries literature.

**Morning Star Baptist Church:** Major power plant project nearby has caused church to outgrow facility. Construction help and financial assistance needed to expand education space.

**Association Camp:** Couple needed to serve as camp administrator May 15-Aug. 15.

Camp also needs labor to install new windows, doors, interior lighting, and thermostats; and for bunk bed construction.

**Russian Connection:** Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) will soon be sending a couple to minister in far east Russia and Siberia. Projects include collecting Russian Bibles, commentaries, song books, Haley's Bible Handbooks, children's materials, etc., for churches in these areas of Russia.

Assistance needed for May 1995 conference in which 30 Russian pastors will be trained and supplied with materials for their personal use, leadership training items, and study material for children.

Help is also needed for Chu Hon Yi, cardiologist serving as a Cooperative Services International (CSI) worker in Khabarovsk, Russia. Adult/child medical supplies, over-the-counter medications, and prescription drugs are needed on a monthly basis (detailed list available upon request). Financial assistance is also needed.

For additional information on any of these projects, contact **Bill Hardy, Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll free (800) 748-1651.**



Christmas 1995 gifts for children of adult literacy students. The children are ages birth through high school. Suggestions for gifts include knit hats, gloves, and scarves; tube socks; small toys; children's Bible study books and games; etc. Gifts need not be wrapped, but must arrive by Dec. 1, 1995.

**Fort Yukon Mission:** Help needed to lead Vacation Bible School while working on general building repairs to church building and living quarters. Money has been raised for materials, but labor is needed. A group of six to eight people for a period of two weeks would be ideal. This project has

## Annuity Board rep Sellers retires after 26 years at MBCB

The date was Feb. 20, 1969. *The Baptist Record* reported the following events:

The state Evangelism Conference, under the direction of Gordon Sansing Sr., had just concluded at Gulfshore Assembly.

Robert E. Wall of Montana had written a thank you note to Cooper Walton for the new suits the Mississippi Brotherhood had given to Montana pastors.

Doug Hudgins was elected as the new executive director for Mississippi Baptists. Meanwhile, James Miller of Pascagoula shared his most embarrassing moment with Doug Dillard. Miller had read: "As it says in Revelation 21:6, 'I am Alfa and Omega.'"

*The Baptist Record*, where Joe Odle, Joe Abrams, and Anne

McWilliams toiled, was in need of a business manager. William H. Sellers was selected.

Sellers, a native of Franklin, Tenn., had served as music director in Tennessee and Texas churches, along with First, Vicksburg; Fifteenth Avenue, Meridian; and First, Canton. He had earned a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College and a music degree from Southwestern Seminary. He also had a banking and bookkeeping background.

He served *The Baptist Record* for nine years, helped make the change to computers, and promoted the paper's "Every Family Plan" to churches throughout the state.

In 1978 he became the Annuity Board representative for Missis-

issippi and began working with Cliff Perkins in the Church-Minister Relations Department.

That position involved traveling to seminars and workshops in the associations. In 1978 there were only 325 churches participating in the Annuity Board's programs. Today there are 1,260 churches which have signed a cooperative agreement with the Annuity Board.

Sellers maintains that having directors of missions in each association has made his work a lot easier. Even as he retires (effective Jan. 31), he is still thinking of the strength for churches in the Annuity Plan.

"It gives real protection for the staff, plus the matching funds of the convention. The servant of the

Lord can retire with respect. There are fewer disability cases where the participant has no income, and there are more relief funds for widows available. The 'Adopt an Annuitant' program has been most successful," said Sellers.

The SBC controversy has made the Annuity work a bit more difficult because of the atmosphere of distrust. However, the position of the Annuity Board has improved and is stronger than ever. The effort of the Annuity Board to distance itself from the so-called "sin stocks" has caused some conflict but the trustees have been solidly behind the board, Sellers said.

He advises young pastors to "get in the annuity program even if it is the minimum. A church can protect itself as well as the staff

with protective coverage in term life insurance, disability, and medical."

Sellers and his wife Jeanette have lived in Brandon for 24 years and are members of First Church there. They have two daughters. Alicia Braswell, along with husband Larry, has been appointed missionary to Brazil. They will leave for the field in July.

Dawn Marie Driggers and husband Morris live in Wilkesboro, N.C., where he serves as a minister of music.

Future plans for the Sellers are to help their children pack for the move to Brazil and do some traveling. He plays golf (weakly), does oil painting (sporadically), and yard work and gardening (masterfully). —GH



# Missionaries seek opportunities to minister after Japan quake

KOBE, Japan (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries are finding opportunities to minister in the aftermath of Japan's deadliest earthquake in 47 years.

The Jan. 17 earthquake rocked Awaji island, 20 miles from the major port city of Kobe in western Japan. The quake, which registered 7.2 on the Richter scale, shattered Kobe and caused significant damage in nearby Osaka.

In the hours immediately following the earthquake, missionaries Mike Brooks and Danny Hinson joined rescue crews digging survivors out of the rubble and taking them to hospitals, reported Tokyo-based missionary Linda Whitworth in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile, missionaries Ronald and Cynthia Reynolds translated for international relief teams at Kobe's Canadian Academy, a large school for children of missionaries and other foreigners, where tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from the devastated city center.

Missionaries also are exploring ways to assist as a massive relief effort gears up in the devastated city of 1.5 million located 280 miles west of Tokyo. Initial discussions have centered around water purification, medical assistance, and possible establishment of a distribution center at Osaka for food, water, and other supplies from relief organizations.

All missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board are safe and accounted for, Whitworth said. The Foreign Mission Board has 182 missionaries assigned to Japan and 14 families assigned to the Kobe-Osaka-Kyoto area affected by the quake. Earlier reports that an unidentified missionary suffered a broken leg proved untrue.

While mission properties sustained some damage, all were "still standing," Whitworth said.

All Japanese Baptist churches also are intact, although two reportedly sustained some damage, she said. Missionary Charles Barham, pastor of an English-language church in Kobe, reportedly was searching for missing church members whose homes had collapsed during the quake.

The fires that raged through Kobe for over 24 hours are now under control, but the death toll has climbed past 5,000 and millions of homes are without electricity.

The following missionaries and family members are in the

quake area:

— David and Jamea Crum, Mexico, Mo., and Springfield, Mo., respectively.

— Bob and Barbara Dilks, Warner Robins, Ga., and Monroeville, Ala., respectively.

— Barry and Tammy Walker, Jonesboro, Ark., and Riverside, Calif., respectively.

— Joni Hardy, San Antonio, Texas.

— Sara Moffett, Austin, Texas.

— Danny and Janice Hinson, Livingston, La., and Titusville, Fla., respectively.

— Mike and Janet Brooks, Atlanta and Decatur, Ga., respectively.

— Cindy Brown, Troy, Mo.

— Charles and Mary Barham, Longview, Texas, and Houston, respectively.

— Ron and Cynthia Reynolds, Ft. Pierce, Fla.

— John and Nancy Norton, Birmingham, Ala., and Miami Springs, Fla., respectively.

— Hank and Linda Lee, Tunica and Hazlehurst, respectively.

— Phillip and Ginger Hillery, Madison, N.J.

— Mary Swedenburg, Hueytown, Ala.

Missionary children attending the Canadian Academy are:

— Wesley Johnson, son of David and Robin Johnson, Renton, Wash., and Columbus, Miss., respectively.

— Mark Deckert, son of Wayne and Kay Deckert, Richmond, Calif., and Salinas, Calif., respectively.

— Bryna Kennedy, daughter of Thomas and Carol Kennedy, Haynesville, La., and Monroe, La., respectively.

— Scott Sherer and Mandy Sherer, children of Robert and Claudia Sherer, St. Louis, Mo.

## FMB missionaries in quake zone

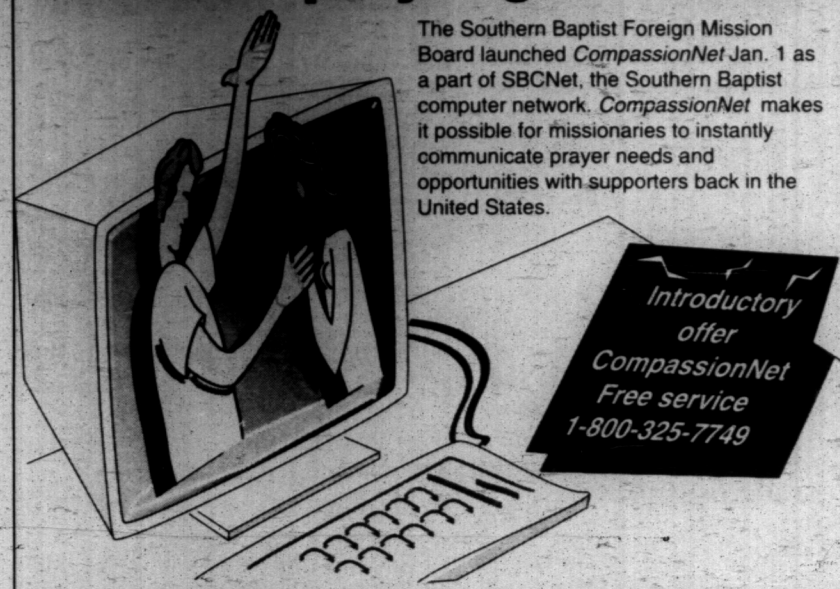
- 182 FMB personnel in Japan; 14 missionary families in destruction region; none hurt
- Death toll above 3,000; 200,000 homeless
- Send relief contributions to Human Needs, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

## Missions prayer goes on-line

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board launched *CompassionNet* Jan. 1 as a part of SBCNet, the Southern Baptist computer network. *CompassionNet* makes it possible for missionaries to instantly communicate prayer needs and opportunities with supporters back in the United States.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

**ON-LINE PRAYER** — *CompassionNet*, a worldwide electronic prayer network sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, went online Jan. 1 with SBCNet, Southern Baptists' computer network. The launch of *CompassionNet* means instant access to urgent prayer needs from the most remote mission fields, says Randy Sprinkle, who directs the FMB's international prayer strategy office. Access to *CompassionNet* requires only a personal computer equipped with a modem and subscriptions to CompuServe and SBCNet. For a limited time, a free introductory subscription may be obtained by calling SBCNet at 1-800-325-7749. The kit includes a free month of CompuServe and a \$25 usage credit that can be applied toward SBCNet access. SBCNet also offers Sunday School lesson resources, sermon outlines, worship helps, news articles, and graphics.

## Japanese Baptists open a relief center in quake area; missionaries on hand to help

KOBE, Japan (BP) — A Japanese Baptist church has opened its doors as a distribution center for relief supplies flowing into earthquake-devastated Kobe, Japan, and Southern Baptist missionaries are helping out.

Kobe Baptist Church, which survived the earthquake that leveled large sections of the city, will distribute food, water, and other relief supplies being received from various sources, said Dennis Folds, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed near Kobe.

Foreign Mission Board missionaries Bob Sherer, Tak Oue, Bob Dilks, and Mike Brooks are assisting with distribution of the much-needed supplies to residents of the area around the church.

The earthquake, which struck in the predawn hours of Jan. 17, killed more than 5,000 people and left as many as 300,000 homeless.

The estimated cost of damage from the earthquake and more than 1,000 aftershocks has risen above \$60 billion, according to FMB officials.

Large areas of the city have no gas or electricity, and many residents depend on food and water distributions to survive.

A Foreign Mission Board team has assessed property damage and relief needs in the city, said Faye Pearson, area director of Foreign Mission Board work in east Asia. The team is preparing recommendations for relief and repair projects. Their report indicates seven churches and one rented missionary house sustained significant damage.

Contributions designated for Japan quake relief may be sent to the human needs office, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Or call toll-free 1-800-866-FMB1.

## "Going Where the People Are" slated for multiple locations in February '95

Simultaneous conferences designed to teach ways to provide Bible study groups beyond the four walls of the church will be held in six locations around Mississippi during February.

The conferences, "Going Where the People Are," will take place on Feb. 20-21 at Trinity Church, Southaven; Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Alta Woods Church, Jackson; Te nple Church, Hattiesburg; Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; and First Church, Meridian.

Each conference begins at 10 a.m. on Monday and concludes at noon the next day. A Monday evening rally takes place at 7 p.m. at no charge.

Conference tracks include

- identifying needs and providing Bible studies across cultural barriers.

- identifying special needs groups and providing Bible study for them.

- identifying people without

church backgrounds and providing discovery-oriented Bible studies.

- identifying people who are hurting emotionally, physically, and socially, and providing support-type Bible studies.

- building strong Bible study strategy starting with Sunday School and reaching out.

Target audiences for the conferences include pastors and church staffers, outreach leaders, deacons, Sunday School directors and teachers interested in providing new Bible studies, potential Bible study leaders, and discipleship training directors.

Sponsors of the conferences are the Bible Study Team and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Pre-registration by Feb. 6 deadline is requested. Cost is \$3 per person with a maximum of \$15 per church. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and mail to Sunday

School Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at the above address. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

## "Home Life" makes TV debut in March

FORT WORTH (BP) — The Radio and Television Commission is working with the Baptist Sunday School Board to produce "Home Life," a television series using the same title as the board's popular *Home Life* magazine.

The one-hour program will be broadcast weekly on ACTS (American Christian Television System) and FamilyNet beginning the first week in March.

"The television program discusses topics related to home and family life and focuses on lifestyles, values, and relationships," said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president of television services. "While part of the program's aim is to develop a wide and loyal audience through upbeat and entertaining segments, its primary purpose will be to celebrate and undergird family life through inspiring interviews, challenging applications, and practical instruction, while providing role models

for healthy families.

"Solid biblical principles are woven throughout the program emphasizing family values and Christian ideals to offer practical insight into today's busy lifestyle," he added.

Home Life programs will include many segments similar to those found in the magazine. Author and financial advisor Ron Blue will offer financial advice; clinical psychologists Mike and Mary Stedham will answer viewer questions; and Florence Littauer will entertain with her helpful hints and humorous vignettes.

ACTS reaches into more than 22 million homes through the Faith and Values Channel via cable television. FamilyNet beams its programming to more than 200 broadcast television stations across the United States via satellite, with a potential audience of more than 55 million homes.



## Structure committee has unknown recommendation

NASHVILLE (BP) — The seven-member study committee looking at the programs and structure of the Southern Baptist Convention has a unanimous recommendation it will present at the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 20 in Nashville.

However, what that recommendation is and what changes are proposed for the nation's largest evangelical denomination are questions the committee does not want to answer until the Feb. 20 release date.

"The Program and Structure Study Committee has worked prayerfully and carefully, considering how the SBC might best help the churches to reach the world for Christ," said Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., and chairman of the committee, in a release to Baptist Press Jan. 27.

The SBC is a huge entity: more than 38,000 affiliated churches with 15-plus million members. The convention's agencies have budgets totaling more than \$630 million (1994-95) with thousands of employees.

Members of the study committee are Brister, chairman; Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark.; William Hall, registered investments advisor, San Clemente, Calif.; Robert Sorrell, associate pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova (Memphis), Tenn.; Rex Terry, attorney, Fort Smith, Ark.; Greg Horton, corporate executive, Simpsonville, S.C.; and R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Floyd, Hall, Sorrell, and Terry are members of the SBC Executive Committee.

## Colbert to assist Mississippi Baptists in church starting

ATLANTA — Gerald Colbert is the new Home Mission Board staff member working with Mississippi to start churches.

Colbert, formerly director of church extension for the State Convention of Michigan, replaces Bill Long who retired in December.

As a field-servicing associate, Colbert will work with state and associational leaders in strategy development, conference planning, and personnel.

One of his areas of expertise is leading "new work probes," intensive studies of an area to deter-

mine needs for new churches. He is also skilled in Mega Cities Missions, a process for assisting associations in large metropolitan areas develop strategies for church starting, church growth, evangelism, and ministry.

Colbert has also worked as an associational director of missions and pastor. Born in Ohio, Colbert is a graduate of North Texas State University in Denton, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Information on HMB church starting resources is available by calling (404) 898-7324.

## Florida Baptist pastor said he'd comply with order to turn over church records

SANFORD, Fla. (ABP) — After resisting a court order for more than a year, a Florida pastor and Southern Baptist Convention leader says he now is willing to turn over documents that include individual giving records to a former church clerk who accuses him of wrongdoing.

Bob Parker, pastor of First Church of Markham Woods in Lake Mary, Fla., issued a statement Jan. 12 announcing he planned to comply with a court order to make giving records available to Ann Haynes, a charter member who won access to the records in a 1993 lawsuit in a Seminole County court.

Parker, a member of the powerful SBC Executive Committee, said a \$10,000 fine assessed by a judge who has already found him and the church in contempt of court, coupled with a threat of further sanctions, prompted him to turn over the records.

In December, Circuit Judge O.H. Eaton ruled Parker and the church in contempt of court for failing to obey his Nov. 2 order

demanding they open certain documents to Haynes and her agent, John King, a certified public accountant and former church member, including the giving records of individual members.

At another hearing Jan. 10, Eaton reportedly demanded the defendants pay the \$10,000 fine that had accrued since his contempt ruling and threatened to institute criminal proceedings unless they complied with his order by Jan. 13.

However, Haynes' attorney said in a Jan. 12 conference call with lawyers, that Eaton said he did not intend to enforce the fine because of questions about its legality. The attorney, Tim Askew of Sanford, did not specify what those questions were.

Still, Askew said, the judge "made it clear he was expecting them to comply."

Askew said Jan. 13 he will reserve comment on Parker's promise until the records are turned over. "We just need to see if they're going to comply. They have told us many times they are

# Salvadoran Baptist Orellana jailed, then released in Morocco

CASABLANCA, Morocco (BP) — A prominent Baptist from El Salvador was abruptly released Jan. 9 after he was sentenced to a year in a Moroccan jail for sharing his Christian faith.

Six days earlier, in a twice-delayed trial, Gilberto Orellana was convicted of "proselytization" and sentenced.

Orellana, former conductor of the San Salvador Symphony Orchestra and a member of Miramonte Baptist Church in San Salvador, moved to Morocco in 1992 to teach music at a conservatory. He was arrested during December while meeting with five Moroccans, most or all of whom are Christian believers.

Three of the Moroccans were released. The other two were sentenced to eight months in prison; they also reportedly have been freed.

Observers said the Christians were denounced by a man who evidently had been baptized earlier. When police came to arrest them, the man was with them and was dressed in a policeman's uniform, the workers said. Later reports said this same man now has been arrested himself.

Christian workers expressed alarm at Orellana's arrest and were seeking financial help for his

legal expenses. They also sent out a worldwide call for prayer on his behalf.

"This case of a resident of Morocco being imprisoned for living out his faith, and nationals of a religious minority being harassed and incarcerated, demands a response," said one worker who requested anonymity because of security concerns.

Those appeals and prayers — and possible contacts by foreign governments — may have accounted for Orellana's release.

He was escorted by police on the day of his release to Ceuta, the Spanish seaport on Morocco's northern coast, where he presented himself to Spanish authorities. He reportedly planned to remain in Spain for a time. His wife, Ruth, and two daughters were expected to leave Morocco and meet him in Spain within a day or two.

Morocco, a heavily Muslim country in North Africa, is known for its anti-Christian repression.

Late in 1993 Moroccan Mustapha Zemamda of Casablanca was sentenced to three years in jail for converting from Islam to Christianity. Zemamda had signed up for a Christian correspondence program based in France. Eighteen

other arrested Moroccans were released after agreeing to sever relations with the school, but Zemamda refused. Later, in court, he also refused to renounce his Christian faith.

Some Christian workers fear anti-Christian actions may increase in North Africa as militant Muslims push their efforts to set up Islam-dominated, Iran-style church states. Morocco's neighbor, Algeria, currently is torn by a civil war that kills up to 1,000 people each month as Muslim rebels battle the government.

The bloody hijacking of a French plane in Algiers Dec. 24 was the latest, most sensational chapter in this struggle, which has witnessed the murder of many foreigners. About 2 million Algerians live in France, Algeria's former colonial ruler, and French police have arrested some Muslim leaders there to prevent the spreading of a war of terrorism onto French soil.

The government of Egypt also has been battling Muslim forces in recent years. Muslim groups there have blown up tourist buses and launched other terrorist attacks on foreigners, police, and government officials.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

What do people mean when they talk about "The Blessing?"

In the Old Testament, the word is "Berekah," an endorsement of the power of God's goodness and favor. In the New Testament, the word is "Eulogio," which means to express praise by calling down God's gracious power on a person. Gary Smalley and John Trent, in their book *The Blessing*, give five aspects:

— Meaningful touch. This indicates that you are willing to reach out and give some of your strength.

— Spoken message. This indicates that you have given thought to your words, which are a gift from you.

— Attaching high value through praise to the person being blessed.

— Picturing a special future for the person being blessed, which establishes a goal for the future.

— Active commitment to fulfill the blessing, which shows that you'll be there for a long time.

The Blessing is an excellent way to let others know of your love, and it is also an excellent means of overcoming low self-

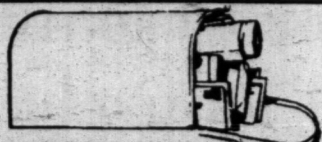
esteem and anger from the past. Practice makes perfect, so pray and look for ways to encourage others by blessing them.

*I don't believe in counseling. My father always handled his problems, and I feel I should be able to do the same.*

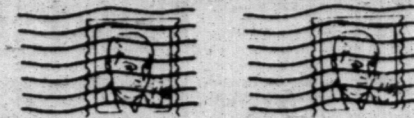
How did your father handle his problems? People with different personalities handle problems in different ways. I think people in past generations talked things out as they worked. Their work was more physical than today, and they came home to read, worship, and do things as a family and neighborhood. Today, people sit in front of a machine and let the "box" tell them what to do, but the more we interact with people the better able we are to handle life's difficulties. How happy and content was your father? Who were the people around him? What were his problems and difficulties, and how similar are your two personalities? After you have answered these questions, begin to surround yourself with good "work out" buddies and Christian people with whom you can laugh and enjoy fellowship.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.





# Letters to the editor



## On gambling issues

Editor:

Thanks to Paul Jones and Elizabeth Holmes for their great work in notifying fellow Baptists about upcoming Legislative actions. They have raised a lot of questions for Mississippi Baptists, a few I am really interested in getting answered.

According to House Bill (HB) 303, HB 222, HB 505, and HB 536,

Mississippians are about to gain yet another burden in regard to gambling. These bills legalize, provide for, or permit pari-mutuel betting, state lottery, sports pools, or betting on horse and dog racing. To show how "oops I goofed"-oriented good ole Mississippians are, there are two more House Bills that they realize they must now pass because of their first mistakes in legalizing gambling, HB 301 and HB 302.

These two bills develop and

implement a "Gamblers Rehabilitation Program" in the Department of Mental Health. Okay, now you've got a lot of questions to ask. If the guys in the legislature knew they would have to spend even more money on taking care of the consequences of gambling, why legalize gambling in the first place (and in the same session!)? Are they sure they know what's right for Mississippians? Did they even ask their mom or dad if it was a good idea? No?

Well, next time they should do us all a big favor and ask!

Where will the money come from to staff the "program" that really did not have to be in the first place? How is all of this rationalized? If you create a problem just so you can spend more money, is that being a good steward of Mississippians' money? Do legislators really think that another "program" will fix the problems they create through legalizing ridiculous things such as gambling? I don't think so, and I'll bet their parents would agree with me.

We may have to live with this now, but in the future, before the legislature passes a lot of "stuff" that Mississippians have to live with, how about reminding them to call their parents, or, better yet, go visit the "Gamblers Rehabilitation Program" at the Department of Mental Health. Call your [state] congressman and let him or her know what's on your mind.

If your church has a Christian Action chairman, utilize their resources and knowledge to contact your congressman. God has given us a lot to work with... our faith, our mind, and our voice. Folks, as Christians our voices need to be heard now more than ever. I look forward to hearing how change is brought about through your prayers for those who claim to represent you and how they listen to your voice of concern for your fellow Baptists and Mississippians.

Randall Jenkins, minister  
of education  
First Church, Philadelphia

## Get facts straight

Editor:

Your editorial, "The real battle," (The Baptist Record, Jan. 12) contains an inaccurate allusion to General George A. Custer. In the article, you stated that Custer would have stayed at home had pine needles existed at Wounded

Knee. I assume you meant to refer to the battle of Little Big Horn, when Custer's men were massacred at the hands of Sioux and Cheyenne braves. This was in 1876.

Wounded Knee, on the other hand, was the site of a massacre by U.S. soldiers against Indian peoples who were performing a ceremony to celebrate the incorporation of Christianity into their religion. This was in 1890. By this time Custer was dead and had gone to meet the consequences of his deeds on earth, which stretched all the way back to the Civil War, when he carried out questionable acts against Southern soldiers. Later, he made a career of atrocities against Indians, who, as I stated earlier, did the same to him.

Wounded Knee was also the site of a political uprising in the early 1970's by Indian peoples.

Steven L. Massey  
Crystal Springs

## Biloxi center opens

Editor:

My wife and I are Mission Service Corps volunteers serving as co-directors of the new East Howard Center, which is located in the same building as East Howard Church, 241 Howard Ave., Biloxi.

We are a weekday ministry center serving the neighborhood around us. I am writing to let you know of our "grand opening" Open House which will be held Feb. 5, 2-4 p.m. and Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m.

Although this will be billed as our "grand opening" we have been in ministry for several months. Our English as a Second Language [class] has been meeting twice weekly since the first of October. Our emergency food pantry has been assisting people throughout the holiday season and we were able to provide gifts to 18 children this Christmas.

James G. Heckman  
Biloxi

## HEALTHCARE

# FOR THE RECORD

## MBMC'S Not-for-Profit Focus Means Service To Central Mississippi.

*Baptist works to reinvest in the local community, not earn a profit.*

In a day when generating dividends for investors is the driving force in so many hospitals, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center continues on the path it began some 84 years ago: to serve the people of Central Mississippi without regard for making a profit.

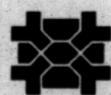
As part of our Christian Mission, we've dedicated our facility to meeting the medical needs of all the people in our area — with no consideration to which patients are profitable and which patients are not.

What's more, we work to be stewards of each health care dollar that comes our way: through wise management and aggressive cost-containment programs. As a result, we're able to reinvest in the medical equipment, services and personnel

that best meet our community's growing health care needs.

As a locally based, locally run medical center, we're intimately tied to the Jackson area and our neighboring counties. We don't report to out-of-state management teams who have no personal stake in our communities. From our board of directors to our newest employee, we live and work here, too. That brings with it a long-term concern for our area that many big-business hospitals have no interest in.

Our not-for-profit heritage combined with our commitment to reinvesting in our community is what makes us different. It's a history of service we're proud of. And one we pledge to continue.



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Please send us the following Gold Carnation pins at \$1.00 each for 100 Pins, INCLUDING shipping costs. 75-99 Pin @ \$1.25 each; 50-74 Pins @ \$1.50 each. NO ORDERS LESS THAN .50

Quantity	Price Each	Total amount Enclosed (Check or money order)
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(UPS Shipping Address)		
(City)	(State)	(Zip)



## Just for the Record

A Foreign Mission Board appointment service is scheduled at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Ala., on April 28 at 7 p.m. This service is an opportunity to see the inner working of the FMB and experience hearing missionaries' inspiring testimonies.

The Mississippi College (MC) Water Fitness Program was recently recognized by the United States Water Fitness Association as one of the top 100 water fitness programs in the country for 1994, with an overall ranking of 51. Pamela Smith directs the MC Water Program. For information on the program, call (601) 925-3857.

MC will host a seminar, "Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Hyperactivity," Feb. 17 in the B.C. Rogers Student Center on campus. Cost is \$68 per person, which includes materials. The seminar will feature Ronald Friedman, psychologist and author of a book on ADD. For more information, call (601) 925-3264.

Senior Groups may be interested in the 7th annual Holly Springs Pilgrimage in Holly Springs, April 20-22. For more information call (601) 252-4791.

Ballet Magnificat and the Mississippi Mass Choir will present a joint spring performance at 7:30 p.m. on March 10 and 11 at the Jackson Municipal Auditorium. For ticket information, call Ballet Magnificat's studios at (601) 977-1001.

International Student Exchange, Inc. (ISE), presently seeks host families for students from different countries. Students between ages 15-18 are carefully screened by ISE for suitability. They bring their own spending money and are covered by health insurance. These students speak English and are anxious to share their cultures with American families. For more information call 1-800-233-4678.

The Port Gibson Pilgrimage and the 1800s Spring Festival will be held at Oak Square Mansion, March 25-26. The tour includes the Baptist church and the Presbyterian church with the gilded hand pointing heavenward on the steeple.

A New Age Movement and Islam conference will be held at Castlewoods Church, Brandon, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The conference, sponsored by the Rankin Association, will be led by Sandy and

Beth Barlow, Interfaith Witness Associates of the Home Mission Board. For more information call Mary Ray at (601) 939-2182.

The Liberty Quartet will be in concert at Arrowood Church, Meridian, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Kevin Griffin is pastor and Weston Burnside is music director.

Focus on the Family will host a conference, "Protecting the Family, Defending the Faith," for Christian attorneys March 1-5 at the Colorado Springs campus in Colorado Springs, Colo. "It's an opportunity for Christian attorneys to meet like-minded attorneys..." said James C. Dobson, president and founder of Focus on the Family. Scheduled keynote speakers include Dobson; Judge Robert Bork, former Supreme Court nominee; Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council; and Bill Bright, founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ. For information contact (719) 531-3329 or write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995-0001.

God is Greater than AIDS, a 12-week spiritually-based support group, will be offered free of charge to those persons living with HIV/AIDS. The group will be facilitated by Carl Matthews-Naylor, a nurse and certified Bereavement Counselor. The group will

begin Feb. 23 from 7:30-9 p.m. To sign up or to request more information call (601) 992-9687.

Lincoln Association will host a workshop for Copiah and Lincoln associations' church media librarians at its associational offices, Feb. 18. Peggy Tacon of Mobile, Ala., will lead the workshop. For more information, call the Lincoln Association at (601) 833-8111.

Laurel Hill Church, Philadelphia, will hold a harvest service Feb. 5 beginning at 6 p.m. "First Love Revival" will sing; C.W. "Gary" Jackson will be the evangelist. Wayne Griffith is pastor.

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists is seeking an executive director for its state convention. Resumes should be sent to: Donald R. Yeager, Fairlawn Baptist Church, Rt. 3, Box 389B, Parkersburg, VA 26101.

Jess C. Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, Calif., will be the guest lecturer for the Evangelism Lectureship at Mississippi College Feb. 13-15. Moody will address the student body during chapel programs on Feb. 13 and 15 at 10 a.m. in Swor Auditorium. He will deliver a lecture Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room which is free and open to the public. A reception will follow in the Reserve Lounge.

## Volunteers needed soon to teach English in China

MEMPHIS (BP) — In the 150th anniversary year of Southern Baptists' international ministries, the call is being sounded for unprecedented numbers of volunteers to serve as English teachers in schools and colleges across China.

Volunteers will teach an intensive immersion program in conversational English in urban and rural settings across mainland China. Contact with students, which includes extracurricular recreational activities, will average more than 30 hours per week.

In most cases, certification and

experience in classroom teaching or group leadership is required. Training in English as a Second Language (ESL) and experience in working with international students is desirable.

Prospective volunteers are urged to contact the Brotherhood Commission's adults in missions department immediately at (901) 272-2461 or 1-800-280-1891. Tim Yarbrough, the Brotherhood Commission's manager for the Teachers to China project, has set April 3 as the target date for enlisting all volunteers.

## Group organizes to plant "free & faithful" churches

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. (ABP) — An organization for starting new churches on behalf of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship formed at a meeting Jan. 19-20 in Cartersville, Ga.

A group of church planters sympathetic to the Fellowship voted to establish the "Friends of New Churches," an autonomous corporation designed, according to a purpose statement, "to serve God through the birthing and nurturing of new free-and-faithful Baptist churches."

They advocate the intentional establishing of new Fellowship-affiliated churches, an emphasis they say is lacking in the Fellowship.

"There's a group in the CBF that says, 'We're not a denomination. We don't start new churches.' There's another group that says, 'We're going to do this. Somebody's got to do it.' Now we're here to say, 'We'll help start churches,'" said Will Carter, the pastor of First Fellowship Church of Knoxville, Tenn., elected as the group's first chairperson.

That is not entirely accidental. Some CBF members oppose church-starting efforts because they fear the churches will become too expensive and because they reopen the question of whether the Fellowship — as its critics allege — has become a new denomination.

Keith Parks, the Fellowship's global missions coordinator, said

the Friends of New Churches helps allay that concern by taking up the church-starting mantle as an autonomous "friend" of the Fellowship.

"I personally think there are some ecclesiological issues that become a problem if, from the (CBF) office in Atlanta, we try to sponsor new churches," Parks said. "Many of our people are concerned about that. Basically we feel churches start churches." The process of planting churches should be centered in the local church as much as possible, Parks said.

As a "friend" of the Fellowship, the Friends of New Churches would come to the table alongside other independent "new ventures" funded by the Fellowship in addition to the CBF's own programs. Most offer alternatives to SBC programs.

Other "friends" — which receive support from the Fellowship but choose their own boards of directors — include Associated Baptist Press, the Baptist Center for Ethics, the Baptist Joint Committee, Baptists Today newspaper, and two seminaries: Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.) and Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

"I think what we are talking about is the very hope of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," said Bob Hoggard, pastor of Fellowship Church in Woodstock, Ga. "Where are these young people [in the seminary] going to if... not free and faithful churches?"

## Homecomings

Pineview, Hattiesburg: Feb. 4-5; 19th anniversary; services, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, David Becker, former pastor, will speak at 11 a.m.; noon dinner on the grounds; Bobby Shurden, pastor.

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## Staff Changes

Thursday, February 2, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

C.C. Ard has retired as pastor of **Philipp Church, Tallahatchie Association**, effective Jan. 1. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and interim and can be reached at 223 River Road, Grenada, MS 38901; phone (601) 226-4852.

**Jim Chance** has been called by **Davis Road Church, Byram**, as director of music, effective Jan. 1.



**Sunrise Church, Petal**, has called **Richard Mayfield** as minister of youth, effective Jan. 15. A native of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., he received his education at William Carey College. His previous place of service was First Church, Fort Walton.

**Robinhood Church, Brandon**, has called **Barry Lyall** as minister of music, effective Jan. 22. A native of Clinton, he received his education at Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Pineview Church, Clinton.

**First Church, Shannon**, has

called **Jim Armstrong** as minister of music and youth, effective Feb. 12. A native of Tupelo, he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. His previous place of service was First Church, Nettleton.

**First Church, Jackson**, has called **Philip Thurman** as assistant minister to pastoral care. His responsibility is to reach inactive members in the church. Thurman received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He is the son of Thomas and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh.



Thurman

**Lexie Church, Tylertown**, has called **Rob Robbins** as pastor, effective Jan. 15. Robbins, a graduate of Mississippi College, recently entered the pastoral ministry after having served in the state for 18 years as a minister of music and education.

**East Heights Church, Tupelo**, has called **Eddie Lamar Wilhite** as minister of music, effective Feb. 1. A native of Corinth, he received a degree from Blue Mountain College and is continuing his education at New Orleans Seminary.

## Revival Dates

**Chunky (Newton):** Feb. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Wayne Campbell, pastor.



**Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Rowe** were recently honored for 25 years of service in the music department at Tomnolen Church, Webster County. A reception was held in the fellowship hall of the church where they greeted church members, former members, and friends.

**James D. Stanfill** of Oxford has earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. He is director of missions for Lafayette and Marshall associations and is a member of North Oxford Church. The Independent Study Institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

**Russell Eugene Coleman**, 51, retired minister, died Dec. 10 at his home in the Elam Community. Funeral services were held Dec. 12 at Elam Church, Coffeeville. Coleman pastored McCondy Church, Chickasaw County, and served as interim at West Side Church, Calhoun County. He also pastored Dividing Ridge and Hopewell churches in Yalobusha County. He retired from Haven Hill Church after 14 years of service. Survivors include his mother,

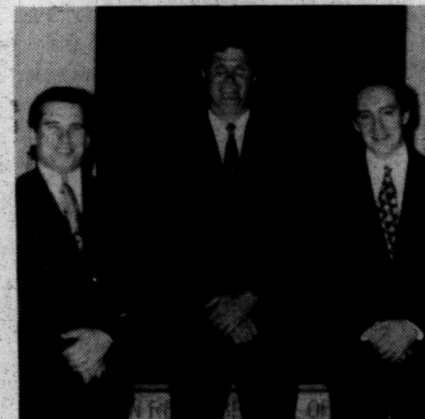
## Names in the News



**Davis Road Church, Byram**, recently ordained three men as deacons. They are, from left: Chuck King, pastor (now deceased), Carl Bagwell, Tony McNair, and Geoff Johnson.

**Myrtis Coleman** of Coffeeville; two sisters, Alma Townsend of Laurel and Esther Parker of Banner; three brothers, Eldredge Coleman and Wayne Coleman, both of Coffeeville, and Riley Coleman of Sardis.

**Ernest M. Nelson** was ordained at Collinsville Church in Lauderdale Association. His father Abe Nelson delivered the charge; David Sellers preached the sermon. Nelson will retire from the United States Air Force in February and plans to attend seminary. He is married to the former Julie A. Moen and they have a son, Matthew.



**Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove**, ordained Paul Hogue and Mark Mayo to the deacon ministry. Pictured, from left, are John Pace, pastor; Hogue; and Mayo.

### OLD BIBLES REBOUND

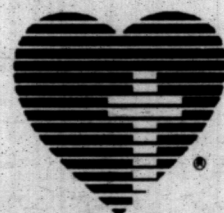
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## Lottie Moon Gifts

**Handsboro Church, Gulfport**, received a total amount of \$6,059.83. RAs and GAs completed a program called "End to End for Jesus." Their goal was to collect 12,000 nickels in cans that would stretch from one end of the property to the other by laying them end to end. They collected \$586 which was almost exactly the number of nickels needed. Richard A. Bradley is pastor.

**Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven**, recently collected the largest offering in the church's history. A goal of \$6,000 was set. An "All the Way in One Day" offering of \$6,609.40 was taken with a grand total of \$6,759.40. Mary Helen Reynolds is WMU director and Donnie South is pastor.

**Bethany Church, Slate Springs**, exceeded its goal of \$6,500 with a total of \$7,381.54 received. Henry Hight is pastor.

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## Uniform Celebrating the covenant



By Greg Potts  
Matthew 26

The Lord's supper is to Christians what the passover is to Jews — a time to remember how God has blessed our lives. In the passover, the Jews remember how God spared their lives and led them out of Egypt. In the Lord's supper, Christians remember how Jesus gave his life and shed his blood for our salvation. The Lord's supper is a time to remember. This lesson deals with the Lord's supper.

**Preparation of the supper (vv. 17-19).** It was Thursday morning of the final week of our Lord's life. Jesus instructed his disciples to go into a neighboring city and find a certain man and inform him that Jesus said it was time to observe the Passover in his home. Jesus had evidently made prior arrangements with someone to use their home for the observance of the Passover.

In the parallel accounts of this story, Mark and Luke indicate that Jesus told his disciples to search for a man carrying a pitcher of water. They were to follow him to his house. A man carrying a pitcher of water would stand out because this was a woman's task. The home was probably Mary's, who was the mother of John Mark (Hobbs, *Exposition of the Gospel of Matthew*, Baker, p.364).

In preparing for the Lord's supper, we should consider how frequently it should be observed. The Bible does not provide specific instructions on the frequency of the observance. This is an issue for each church to resolve. Most Baptist churches observe the Lord's supper quarterly.

**The perception of the Savior (vv. 20-25).** As Jesus and his disciples reclined at the table, Jesus informed them that one of them would betray him. The disciples were shocked and grieved. They began asking, "Surely, not I, Lord?" Jesus told them the one who dipped his hand with Jesus in the bowl was the one who would betray the Lord.

The amazing thing about this text is that Jesus was able to see into the heart of man. No one had informed him that he would be betrayed. He knew it was part of God's plan. Judas probably thought he was pretty clever — hiding his intentions from the Lord. But the Lord was aware of his plans all along.

The Lord knows our hearts as well. Jesus once informed a group of people, "the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10:30). If the Lord knows how much (or little) hair we have, he certainly knows what is in our hearts!

The apostle Paul said, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). Examine yourself before observing the Lord's supper.

**Participation in the supper (vv. 26-29).** In these verses, the Lord gave his disciples a new ordinance to observe. The Lord would leave orders for his church to observe two ordinances until his return. Those are baptism and the Lord's supper. Some Christians believe Jesus also intended for us to observe the ordinance of foot-washing. This is based on the account of John 13. However, Jesus was simply modeling humility when he washed the feet of his disciples, not giving us a new ordinance.

Who is to partake of the Lord's supper? There are some churches that practice what is known as "closed communion." Among those who do, there are a couple of interpretations of this practice. Some believe that only members of that particular congregation should observe the Lord's supper. Others expand this to allow other Baptists to observe the Lord's supper whether they are worshipping in their home congregation or not.

Most Baptists practice what is known as "open communion." This teaches that all Christians are welcome to observe the Lord's supper, regardless of their denominational preference.

The Lord's supper is a time to remember. The bread reminds us of the body of Jesus that was broken for our sins, while the juice reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for our salvation.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

## Bible Book God's condemnation



By Sylvia Fleming  
Jeremiah 11:1 — 15:9

In all of God's resplendent glory, perfect love, and abundant mercies, he is an immutably holy God who cannot tolerate sin. Thus, earlier in his preparations for the Deuteronomic Covenant, God had made promises of both blessings and curses to his chosen people, dependent upon their faithfulness to him. This faithfulness would be demonstrated in their obedience or disobedience to the Covenant.

In Deuteronomy 28:1-14, God promised that he would bless the nation of Israel abundantly. Then, he (vv. 15-68) stated that he would curse them with devastating judgment; military defeat; drought — resulting in famine, pestilence — extremely contagious diseases, only to name a few. "If" was the door that God chose to leave open for his chosen unfaithful to be reconciled to him. If they would obey him, he would bless them. All of God's guidance, compassion, and tender loving care toward the Jewish people would have its basis in their obedience to God. Not only were the blessings dependent upon God, but the Covenant carried with it the penalty of a curse.

Therefore, the Lord commanded Jeremiah to announce the curse upon the people of Judah for not obeying the Deuteronomic Covenant that had been made with these people almost 1,000 years earlier. The thought given in verse 3 — "... Cursed be the man..." — closely follows the thinking behind Deuteronomy 27:26: "Cursed be he who confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them..."

God's words he had set forth in the Deuteronomic Covenant had not changed, but sad to say, neither had Jeremiah's people changed. They were continuing in their disobedience just as their forefathers had done. They were not simply disobedient, but willfully disobedient. God had told those same people during Isaiah's day: "But your iniquities have separated... you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you that he will not hear" (Is. 59:2).

Following this same line of rejection, God told Jeremiah (14:11) not to even pray for these people. God was looking at people's behaviors which were indicative of their hearts. He was not listening to words Jeremiah was saying for them in his grief and desire for them to repent. God wanted to see behavioral changes. Ritualistic, superficial worship and words not backed up by actions are never satisfactory to God.

God was so angry over Manasseh's sin of having restored local idol worship and his ultimately having offered his own son as a sacrifice that even if Moses and Samuel had been standing before him interceding for those people, God would still have cast them out. Previously, when Moses and Samuel made intercessory prayers for the Hebrews, they first convinced the people to repent, and then they interceded for them with God (Ex. 32:30-32; 1 Sam. 7:3-10). So they were still following after other gods and offering up their children, even though a curse would be placed upon them.

America or any other nation which follows after other gods and sacrifices their children for Satan will suffer today as in the past. God is just as real today as in Jeremiah's day. Jeremiah was praying words that the people themselves should have been praying. God always wants true repentance from the sinners themselves. Never can parents, pastors, brothers, nor sisters repent for their loved ones. The Jews had wandered far from God, and God in turn would allow them to wander for centuries through his world-wide dispersion.

Once again, one can be reminded of God's promise to Solomon: "If my people... shall humble themselves... turn from their wicked ways, then... I... will forgive their sin" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

## Life and Work Compassion, not indifference



By Michael Johnson  
Mark 6

One of the slogans George Bush used in a presidential campaign was to foster a "kinder, gentler nation." While the political pundits have debated the exact meaning of this phrase, it would seem to me that perhaps Bush was calling Americans to become more compassionate in their relationships with one another. Mark echoes a similar theme in the sharing of a remarkable event in the ministry of Jesus.

In Mark's account, Jesus is famous. Word of his teaching and miracles has spread throughout the area. Hordes of people sought him out — eager to hear more of his teachings or perhaps hoping that they might be the recipient of a healing or blessing.

**Compassion for the weary.** Jesus and the disciples were working hard to meet the people's needs. They were so busy they didn't even have time to eat. Recognizing the problem, Jesus called his followers away from the crowds and sought to retreat to a quiet place for rest. The crowds, however, followed them wherever they went.

**Compassion for the spiritually needy.** Instead of reacting in anger, resentment, or annoyance, Mark tells us that Jesus was moved to compassion. From Jesus' perspective, the crowds reminded him of a flock of sheep which had lost its shepherd. They sought what only Jesus could give and so Jesus gave himself through his teachings.

**Compassion for the physically needy.** It grew late. The people were tired and dinner time was near. The disciples wanted to send the people away to fend for themselves, but Jesus indicated that they must tend to the people's needs.

**Expressing compassion through involvement.** At first the disciples become rather indignant. How could they be expected to feed a crowd so large? In fact, it would take the equivalent of six months' wages to underwrite a dinner for the crowd. Jesus, however, simply asks for the resources at hand and is offered the five barley loaves (more like rolls) and two fishes (more like sardines). It was enough, more than enough.

**Lessons learned.** There are several important lessons for daily living that can be gleaned from this familiar story (it is the only miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all four gospels):

1. We must maintain a proper balance between work and rest. Stress and burnout are words too familiar to those living in the nineties. Just as we cannot work endlessly without recreation, man cannot achieve progress in the Christian life without spending time with God. P.T. Forsyth has perhaps said it best, "You must live with people to know their problems, and live with God in order to solve them."

2. The church must be on the cutting edge of providing needed leadership to a troubled world. We are living in a society that is in desperate need of proper guidance; the sheep need a shepherd!

Every day people stand at the crossroads of life and are perplexed by the choices. Christ's bride, the church, needs to issue a clarion call which will be heard and heeded.

3. Personal involvement is necessary for any change. "It's not my problem." "I've done my share." "It won't do any good." These responses are often heard when people are confronted with a need to act. One thing is for sure: if no one acts, the need will not be met. As an individual I am unable to meet the needs of the whole world, but perhaps I can meet the need of one person. Yes, it is risky to get involved; there is often a physical, emotional, and financial cost. The essence, however, of the Christian life is a life of service.

4. Jesus is able to make much out of little. Christ is able to take my inadequate contribution and multiply it so that it will be sufficient. The miracle cannot happen unless I am willing to first make the offering.

5. Compassion is a prerequisite before any of the above is possible. We have to care about a growing relationship with Christ before we find the time to spend with him. Because we care about the church we will work harder to make the church more relevant to society. Because of the example of Christ's compassion and what he has done for us, we are motivated to risk meeting the needs of others. Can we do any less?

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



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# capsules

**1995: A YEAR OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD:** RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Muslims: They're at least 1 billion strong — one in every five people on earth. Despite deep and sometimes violent disputes among themselves, Muslims are growing in strength and numbers in many areas — including the United States. They believe in one God — the God of Abraham and Moses. The Koran, Islam's holy book, recognizes and honors Jesus as a prophet, sinless and born of a virgin. But Muslims do not believe Jesus is the Son of God. And many live in places or cultures where they seldom, if ever, get the chance to hear and respond to the Christian gospel. Those who do often risk their lives. Only one thing will ever change these realities, Christian mission strategists believe — prayer. That's why a joint Foreign Mission Board-Home Mission Board task force urges Southern Baptists to set aside 1995 as the "Year of Prayer for Muslim Peoples." To order resources, call the Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-866-FMB1 or write FMB Customer Services, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

**LITTLE ROCK BSU DIRECTOR ASKED TO RESIGN:** LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP) — A veteran Baptist campus minister in Little Rock, Ark., has stepped down because of questions about his beliefs. Dan McCauley, 50, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock since 1977, was asked by supervisors to resign or face firing following recent complaints about his theology by two students and their pastor, according to sources. Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas State Convention, told members of the state's executive board that McCauley's views on biblical authority, extra-biblical revelation, and security of the believer "differ significantly from our commonly held faith" as Southern Baptists. *The Arkansas Baptist* newspaper reported in its Dec. 29 issue. McCauley believes the Holy Spirit, not the Bible, is the final authority for the Christian, Moore said. "Whatever... the Holy Spirit reveals to him, that is his authority," Moore said. Such "subjective criteria... leaves us with no absolute truth" and "subverts the faith of young believers," Moore charged.

**BAPTIST CHURCH SECRETARIES EARN AVERAGE SALARIES:** LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. (ABP) — Baptists generally pay church secretaries in keeping with the national average for all church secretaries, according to an annual survey of church secretaries conducted by *Profile*, a bimonthly newsletter for church secretaries. Results were published in the newsletter's September-October 1994 issue. Baptist churches of all types pay full-time secretaries an average of \$8.92 per hour and part-time secretaries an average of \$7.76 per hour, according to Gayle Hilligoss, newsletter editor. That compares to a national average in all churches of \$8.99 for full-time secretaries and \$7.76 for part-time secretaries. Full-time secretaries in churches with fewer than 300 members earn an average of \$8.45 per hour, while secretaries in churches with more than 1,000 members earn an average of \$9.74 per hour. Among other findings: 72% of full-time church secretaries are members where they work; 98% of full-time secretaries are given paid vacation leave; 47% receive medical insurance; 91% of church secretaries work with computers — 60% do desktop publishing, 81% produce a newsletter.

**NEW CHAPLAIN HOPES TO BE PASTOR TO SENATORS:** WASHINGTON (BP) — Lloyd John Ogilvie, newly elected chaplain of the U.S. Senate, says he feels "deeply called" to leave his longtime pastorate in Hollywood, Calif., and his television/radio ministry to be a pastor to 100 senators, their families, and their staff members. The Senate elected Ogilvie, pastor of Hollywood's First Presbyterian Church since 1972, as chaplain by unanimous consent Jan. 24. He replaces another Presbyterian, Richard Halverson, 79, who is retiring because of health reasons. He will seek to emulate the ministry of Halverson, who has been a "pastoral chaplain" to the senators, as well as their staff and families, Ogilvie said in a Jan. 25 news conference.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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IPMU MWO LIDO ESS MWAPRB EDO LIDO: TIM  
IPMU MWOZ MWEM EDO XOCASOX EPX IPTO-  
SAOJAPR AB PUMWAPR LIDO: TIM OJOP MWOAD  
ZAPX EPX NUPBNAOPNO AB XOCASOX.

MAMIB UPO: CACMOOP

This week's clue: B Equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts One: Seven.

# Hundreds of workers sought to help in European crusades

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP) — Hundreds and possibly thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers will be sought for a series of major evangelistic campaigns in western Europe between 1995 and 1997.

A campaign planned for France in 1997 could involve between 400 and 500 volunteers and be the largest of its kind ever held in western Europe, said W.H. "Dub" Jackson Jr., the Foreign Mission Board's crusade coordinator for Europe. He is planning campaigns in Denmark, Spain, Norway, Sweden, France, and Germany.

Though Americans usually see these western European countries as cultured and prosperous vacation destinations, missiologists have considered the area one of the most resistant and spiritually needy in the world. Some African countries have higher percentages of born-again believers than many countries in western Europe.

In France, for example, Muslims outnumber evangelical Christians and active Roman Catholics combined. The 1997 campaign in France will involve some 50 French Baptist congregations.

Although the process of establishing a church in France can take a decade or more, the last Southern Baptist partnership campaign there resulted in more than 200 salvation decisions.

Some Christian leaders see signs of revival in Europe. "Innovative and persistent church planting efforts are beginning to pay off here and there on the continent. I really believe we may be seeing the start of a real movement of God in Europe," said Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wagner.

A longtime resident of Austria and Belgium now living in Germany, Wagner travels widely across the continent as the FMB's evangelism and church planting consultant for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

"I just pray Southern Baptists will be ready to move where the Spirit of God is moving," Wagner added.

Jackson announced the partnership evangelism campaigns well in advance so Southern Baptists can pray, budget, and plan to participate, he said. "We can never have these numbers without a real commitment by Southern Baptists to

respond to this specific and most meaningful challenge."

Pastors, laymen, and musicians of all ages are being sought — "anyone who's ready to love and share his faith now."

Those who want to participate should contact the Foreign Mission Board's volunteer hot line number at 1-800-888-8657. Interested persons also can contact Jackson's office at (915) 695-6754.

The partnership evangelism campaign schedule so far involves: **Denmark:** 60-70 people needed, Sept. 27-Oct. 10, 1995, in seven churches.

**Spain:** 200-300 people needed, Oct. 11-24, 1995, in 20-30 churches.

**Norway:** 100-200 people needed, Oct. 9-22, 1996, in 10-20 churches.

**Sweden:** 75-100 people needed, Oct. 16-28, 1996, in six or more churches.

**France:** 400-500 people needed, May 25-June 5, 1997, in at least 50 churches.

**Germany:** 250-300 people needed, fall of 1997. Plans are still being formulated, but this may be a nationwide effort.

# "Christian musicianary" trains musicians worldwide to minister

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A beat-up old guitar with fragile strings changed Scott Wesley Brown's life.

Brown already was a successful contemporary Christian musical artist with a string of No. 1 hits when he journeyed behind the Iron Curtain in 1983 to conduct a series of "covert concerts." He told his story Dec. 27-30 to participants in Mission 95, a conference for college students sponsored by five Southern Baptist agencies.

On his first trip to Moscow, his guitar was confiscated by the Soviet secret police, he reported. Ready to sing but with no instrument to accompany him, Brown asked a Russian pastor if he could borrow a guitar.

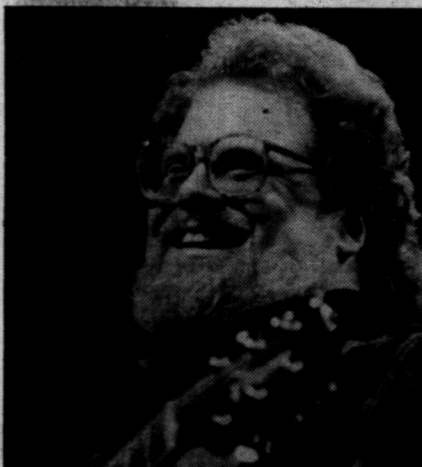
The pastor spoke to a young man in the congregation, who scurried off. About 15 minutes later, the man returned, out of breath and sweating, but carrying a tattered duffel bag.

"Inside was the most beat-up guitar I ever saw in my life," Brown recalled. "It was so twisted and bent I thought, 'I'll never be able to play this old thing.'"

But not wanting to offend his hosts, he began pounding out a rhythm, just as he would on his own guitar. Almost immediately, the owner began waving his arms and talking excitedly.

Brown asked what was wrong, and the pastor explained, "He says he waited a whole year for a pack of strings, and you're playing so hard he's afraid you'll break them."

Although Brown's guitar didn't



Scott Wesley Brown performed before more than 3,400 students and recorded a praise and worship album during the opening session of Mission 95, the national student conference held in Louisville, Ky., Dec. 27-31. (Photo by Jim Vene-man)

make the trip, several sets of replacement strings he had packed did. He reached into his bag and handed the young man the packs of strings.

The man looked at the strings with wonder and then told Brown, "Now I will be able to worship Jesus forever."

In that instant, Brown found renewed purpose for his life. He went back home to Nashville and founded I CARE (International Christian Artists Reaching the Earth) Ministries. The organization distributes musical instruments and equipment to Christian musicians in Third World countries, and it trains the musicians for ministry.

"My goal is to disciple the nations," Brown explained in an

interview. "We Christians disciple others in the area of our gifting — some in agriculture and some in dentistry. As for me, I'm a musician. I disciple the musicians."

He has traveled to 37 countries and taken more than 100 professional musicians with him. They have conducted seminars for as many as 3,000 Africans and as few as a dozen Germans.

"We train the nationals to reach their nations for Christ," he continued. "That's the trend in missions today. We can be with them and their people for only a little while. But if we train them well, they will provide a lifetime of ministry."

Baptist Record

February

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